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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,152	12/18/2001	Jeffrey D. Frego	65-96	6641

25542 7590 02/28/2003

CNH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPARTMENT
CASE NEW HOLLAND INC.
P.O. BOX 1895
MS 641
NEW HOLLAND, PA 17557

EXAMINER

MAMMEN, NATHAN SCOTT

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3671

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/020,152

Applicant(s)

FREGO, JEFFREY D.

Examiner

Nathan S Mammen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ziegler et al. (U.S. Patent 4,967,544) in view of Vogelaar (U.S. Patent 2,766,572).

The Ziegler '544 patent discloses an agricultural vehicle having a hydro-mechanical reel drive system. The reel drive comprises a hydraulic header circuit including a hydraulic reservoir supplying fluid to a hydraulic pump (61) to drive the header. What the Ziegler '544 patent does not disclose is that the hydraulic circuit activates a steering mechanism or that the pump is a variable pump.

The Vogelaar '572 patent teaches that it is known in the art to provide a single hydraulic circuit for activating the steering mechanism as well as driving other hydraulic motors (col. 3, lines 42-46). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the agricultural vehicle of the Ziegler '544 patent with the single hydraulic circuit arrangement of the Vogelaar '572 patent for activating both the header and the steering mechanism, in order to provide a simplified and cheaper hydraulic circuit that still ensures sufficient power to the steering mechanism (Vogelaar – col. 1, lines 60-67).

The Ziegler '544 patent does not disclose a variable pump. Instead, the supply of hydraulic fluid is varied by using a flow control valve (70). It would have been obvious to one

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having ordinary skill in the art to provide a variable pump, since it is well-known that variable pumps can be used in the place of flow control valves in order to meter the supply of hydraulic fluid to a circuit.

Regarding claims 2-6, 11-15: The Vogelaar '572 patent further teaches that the single hydraulic circuit comprises a valve stack (col. 3, lines 58-65). The valve stack comprises a priority valve that operates to preferentially supply fluid to the steering circuit (col. 1, line 70). The valve stack includes two directional control valves (V and H) that operate to supply hydraulic fluid. Providing an additional directional control valve would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding claims 7-9, 16, 17: The Ziegler '544 patent discloses that the agricultural vehicle includes valves that are solenoid operated. The Ziegler '544 patent also discloses the use of a load circuit (100) to control the amount of hydraulic fluid supplied.

Conclusion

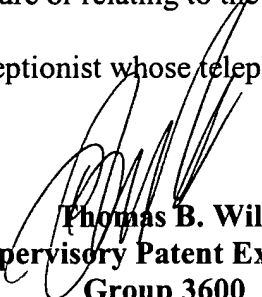
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan Mammen whose telephone number is (703) 306-5959. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will, can be reached at (703) 308-3870. The fax number for this Group is (703) 305-3579.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-1113.



Thomas B. Will
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600

NSM
2/21/03

Nathan S. Mammen